

to the post office box wherein a letter addressed to the recipient is placed in the box and the recipient later comes in and picks it up. With a VAN the EDI transaction is addressed to the trading partner, stored, and later retrieved by the trading partner when he logs on to the VAN's mailbox system.

- MAPPING** The process of creating an exact correspondence between the structure of the EDI standard document (eg. waybill) and the electronic file normally prepared by your computer application.
- PROTOCOL** Communications standards that dictate the form and content of any transmission. Protocols are concerned more with the use of bits and signals in the transmission process than they are with the nature of the data.
- PTT** Post Telegraph Telephone Administration. These are mostly nationalized organizations in Europe and elsewhere that oversee the public use of communications facilities.
- SEGMENTS** A group of data elements that comprise some information in an EDI message. The segment corresponds to a record in normal computer applications. EDI messages are made up of segments and the segments are made up of elements.
- X12** The abbreviated designation of the work produced by the Accredited Standards Committee X12 of ANSI. The term X12 has come to mean the set of standards documents established by the committee and used extensively by thousands of companies throughout North America to do EDI.
- X.400** An ANSI standard for enveloping of transmissions of many types including EDI. It is being used by some VANs for interconnect standardization purposes.